

Camden Parks & Recreation Committee Meeting Minutes
December 12, 2012
5:15 pm, Washington Street Conference Room

Present: Ray Andresen (chair), Pete Conover, Casey Leonard, David Olivas, Brian Robinson, Beth Ward. Excused: Pete Brown, Jim Heard (Select Board Liaison). Absent: Ed Libby. Guests: Rick Knowlton, Lowrie Sargent, Geoff Scott, Jean White.

Ray Andresen opened the meeting at 5:17 pm.

Minutes: Pete Conover moved to accept the November 28, 2012 minutes as presented, Casey Leonard seconded the motion, and it passed 4-0.

Comprehensive Plan Review: Lowrie Sargent and Jean White outlined the process and timetable for revising the Town's Comprehensive Plan, which by law needs to be revised every 10 years. The last revision was completed in 2004 and approved by voters in 2005, so the next two years will be devoted to reviewing and rewriting the various chapters. The Planning Board, which is responsible for getting this done, will be seeking input from town committees and other interested parties. It has asked the Parks and Recreation Committee to begin participating by reviewing Chapters 5 and 6 of the current Plan and submitting any recommended changes, corrections or additions by April. The Committee will be asked to review other chapters in the future.

RMRA Redevelopment: Rick Knowlton gave an update on the \$6.5 million redevelopment plan for Ragged Mountain. He noted that RMRA's fundraising campaign is gaining momentum (it is now well over \$3 million toward its goal of \$4.5 million) and that the Redevelopment Committee is looking at the possibility of a ballot vote in June on the \$2 million bond authorization that was favored by a 2-to-1 non-binding vote back in 2008. The rationale for a June vote is to get the funds approved for the 2013/2014 budget, thus avoiding a one-year delay in the redevelopment process. However, if the bond authorization appears on the ballot, it probably will contain wording that prohibits the distribution of any bond proceeds until the \$4.5 million RMRA goal is reached. Rick invited members of the Parks and Recreation Committee to attend the next RMRA Redevelopment meeting on Thursday, Dec. 20 at 4:30 p.m. in the Snow Bowl Lodge. Rick also asked that the Parks and Recreation Committee look at the RMRA Sustainability Plan and send any comments or suggested changes directly to him or Beth Ward.

Director's Job Description: Ray Andresen reported that the Committee is not expected to rewrite the Job Description for the Parks and Recreation Director, but that any comments, suggestions or questions related to that job description should be sent to him by the end of the year so he can forward them to the Town Manager before our next meeting.

Committee Goals for 2013: Ray outlined various committee goals for the coming year — (1) Reviewing the Comprehensive Plan, (2) Supporting the Ragged Mountain Redevelopment Bond Vote, (3) Helping Select a New Parks and Recreation Director, (4) Revising the Parks and Recreation Strategic Plan, and (5) Developing a List of Needs and Future Uses for Parks and Recreation Properties.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Pathways: Geoff Scott reported that the Pathways Committee is finishing up its inventory of Camden's sidewalks and making a priority list for maintenance. He also reported that the Committee conducted an abutters' meeting with those property owners who will be affected by the new Washington Street sidewalk to Shirttail Point.

US National Toboggan Championships®: Ray reported that plans for the 2013 event seem to be progressing smoothly, but that more volunteers are needed. He specifically asked members of the Parks and Recreation Committee to consider serving as volunteer guides on the buses transporting spectators from Downtown to the Snow Bowl.

FINANCIAL REPORTS

Income: Beth reported that season passes are still down from last year. Pete Conover suggested that the Department consider selling special season passes in February that would good for the rest of the year and the following season, a practice used by some ski resorts.

Expenses: Beth reported that the Department does not have the \$35,000 to purchase a new plow truck for the Snow Bowl, where it now takes at least four hours to plow the lots. However, the Town Manager has arranged for the Department of Public Works to plow the lots this year. She also noted that personnel costs are higher than budgeted due to extra office hours for support staff filling in for Jeff Kuller.

OLD BUSINESS

Septic System: Beth reported that the engineers have given the OK for the new system.

Sports Field: Beth reported that Sports Fields submitted a quote of \$4,800 to repair the football/lacrosse field. There is only \$2,500 in the budget for field maintenance and repair. Sports Fields also suggested that the field be kept closed during the spring "to heal," and it was suggested that an advisory letter be sent to potential user groups that the field could be shut down and unavailable this coming spring. There also was discussion about asking user groups to contribute to the field's repair.

NEW BUSINESS

Special Session: The Committee agreed to hold a special session to review its policy, goals (see above), and strategic plan at its next meeting in January. Any other necessary business will be dealt with via e-mail.

Upcoming Events: Opening Day for the ski season is Friday, December 21.

David Olivas moved to adjourn, Pete Conover seconded the motion, and it passed 5-0 at 7:10 p.m.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, January 9, 2013 at 5:15pm in the WSCR.

Minutes recorded by Ray Andresen